

Indeed, the CBC, along with all other broadcasters, is specifically called upon to "provide a reasonable, balanced opportunity for the expression of differing views on matters of public concern". And it is our solemn responsibility to see to it that this part of the CBC's mandate is achieved during the referendum debate - as always.

The CBC is also called upon, in the Broadcasting Act, "to contribute to the development of national unity and provide for a continuing expression of Canadian identity." It has been a matter of some puzzlement to many as to how the CBC can reasonably be expected to achieve this part of its mandate, while at the same time giving to those who are bent upon dividing the country "a reasonable and balanced opportunity" for the expression of their views.

Well I have already said, in a submission to the Task Force on Canadian Unity, how we on the Board of Directors believe the CBC should go about fulfilling this part of our mandate ... and indeed how we are doing it now. But I want to restate here what was said in that submission about the fulfillment in our news and current affairs programming of that part of our mandate